Maintenance and development of historical monuments in Uttar Pradesh

758. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Archaeological Survey of India gets meagre funds from the Central Government for the maintenance and development of historical monuments in the country, most particularly in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details of the funds provided to ASI during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Government to provide adequate funds for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Considering the enormity of the task of conservation, maintenance and development work of protected heritage sites and monuments in the country, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) requires more funds.

(b) The details of funds provided to the ASI during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise for conservation, preservation and environmental development are given in the Statement. [Refer to the Statement appended to the Answer to Unstarred Question No. 752(b)].

(c) While submitting requirements for Eleventh five year plan, need based requirement of funds for the ASI has been projected. In addition possibility of augmenting the resources of ASI through public-private participation is being explored.

Removal of tax on inter statement transaction between oil companies

759. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have proposed for removal of tax on inter-company and inter-state transaction between oil companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how it will be helpful to oil companies in lowering down the losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to selectively remove the CST only in respect of oil companies.

2. Presently, inter-State sale transaction are subject to levy of Central Sales Tax (CST). The CST is levied when the sale or purchase of goods either (i)(occasions the movement of goods from one State to another; or (ii) is effected by a transfer of document of title to the goods during their movement from one State to another. The CST is levied uniformly on all inter-State sale transaction including such transaction between oil companies.

3. As part of the tax reform process, it is proposed to phase out the CST gradually over next three years, since CST is inconsistent with VAT. As part of this process, it is proposed to reduce the CST rate from 4% to 3% *w.e.f.* 1st April, 2007. This will apply to all transactions involving inter-State sale of goods, including such transactions between the oil companies.

FDI inflow in the country

760. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 15 years since the country started liberalizing its economy, cumulative FDI inflows into India (April 1991 to September 2005) have totalled only $ 44 billion while China attracted $ 72 billion in 2005 alone;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to its dismal record of attracting Foreign Driect Investment, India slipped seven notches to rank 119 in the inward foreign investment performance index in an UNCTAD report; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to attract substantial Foreign Direct Investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's ranking is 119 in inward foreign investment performance index, according to Worl Investment Report 2006, published by UNCTAD, but the FDI inflow to India has shown considerable growth in recent years. While